

Serial No.: 10/808,072
Office Action Date: 10/10/2006

Filed: 03/24/2004
Amendment Date: 2/7/2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Subsequent to the Office Action issued on 10/10/2006, claims 3-10, 13-21, and 24-28 are pending in the Application. By this reply, claims 3-6, and 8 have been amended. Claims 13-21 and 24-28 have been canceled. Claims 3-10 remain in consideration.

A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and fee authorization are enclosed herewith.

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action stated that claim 10 was allowable. This is noted with appreciation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 24, 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida* (USPN 5,699,056) in view of *Fastenrath* (USPN 6,061,625) and *Meek*, et al. (USPN 6,121,924).

Claims 3-5 and 8 have been amended to be dependent upon allowable claim 10. Claims 3-5, 8 and 9 are now each dependent upon allowable claim 10 with additional limitations, and are therefore allowable.

Claims 24 and 26-28 have been canceled in order to put the application in condition for a notice of allowance and not for reasons related to patentability of the claims.

Claims 6, 7, 13-18, 21, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida* in view of *Fastenrath* and *Meek* as applied to claims 3 and 24, and further in view of *Froeberg* (USPN 6,233,517).

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to be dependent upon allowable claim 10, with additional limitations, and are therefore allowable.

Claims 13-18, 21, and 25 have been canceled in order to put the application in condition for a notice of allowance and not for reasons related to patentability of the claims.

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Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida* in view of *Froeberg* and *Fastenrath*.

Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled in order to put the application in condition for a notice of allowance and not for reasons related to patentability of the claims.

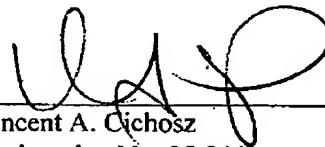
Conclusion

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-10 are in condition for allowance and the Applicant requests that same be allowed to proceed to issue.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for any fees associated with this response, including those authorized by the attached Pctition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and fee authorization, which are enclosed herewith.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the contents of the present response, Applicant's attorney may be reached at the phone number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,



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